

# SAFETY ALERT



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

AFZX-SA

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER AND FORT POLK  
6661 WARRIOR TRAIL, BUILDING 350  
FORT POLK, LOUISIANA 71459-5339



MAR 2 1 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: POV Accident on Highway 171 -- Safety Alert 05-08

1. Recently, a Soldier was involved in a POV accident in Leesville. The Soldier was traveling north on Highway 171 when he lost control of his vehicle, veered off of the road, and collided with an embankment, injuring himself. Alcohol and drugs were apparently involved. Civilian law enforcement officers believe that the Soldier was traveling at a high rate of speed and not wearing a seatbelt.

2. **What were the driving mistakes?**

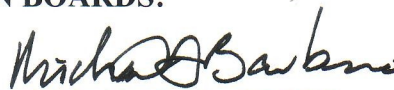
- a. The Soldier was apparently driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs.
- b. The Soldier was apparently driving at an excessive speed.
- c. The Soldier apparently did not use his seatbelt.

3. **Lessons Learned:**

- a. Never operate any vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, regardless of the amount.
- b. Never mix alcohol and drugs of any type. Comply with warning labels on prescription drugs.
- c. Do not drive at excessive speeds and follow the posted speed limits.
- d. Always wear your seatbelt when operating any vehicle.

5. During unit safety briefings, leaders must emphasize the following: driving while under the influence is illegal; wearing seatbelts is mandatory; and disobeying the posted speed limit increases the likelihood of having an accident.

**ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION, BRIEF TO ALL SOLDIERS, AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS!**

  
MICHAEL D. BARBERO  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

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